

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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USOECD

FOL RPT ROME 16048 SENT ACTION SECSTATE DTD 30 SEP 77

QUOTE: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ROME 16048

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, MNUC, PFOR, IT

SUBJECT: US-ITALY ENERGY WORKING GROUP (EWG) AND POSSIBLE VISIT
TO U.S. OF MINISTER OF INDUSTRY DONAT CATTIN

REF: (A) ROME 14247, (B) ROME 15613

1. DURING SEPT 28 CONVERSATION WITH ECMIN, FOREIGN MINISTRY
ENERGY COORDINATOR MIGLIUOLO ADVISED THAT MINISTER OF
INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE (RESPONSIBLE FOR ENERGY) CARLO DONAT
CATTIN WOULD LIKE TO VISIT U.S. DURING FIRST WEEK OF
NOVEMBER. MIGLIUOLO PLACED PROPOSED VISIT IN CONTEXT OF AND AS
FOLLOW-UP TO MEETING BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI AND SECRE-
TARY SCHLESINGER DURING ANDREOTTI'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON IN JULY.
AT THAT TIME, ACCORDING TO MIGLIUOLO, SECRETARY SCHLESINGER
HAD AGREED THAT U.S. WOULD KEEP ITALY ADVISED OF WORLD

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ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS. MIGLIUOLO ASSERTED THAT DONAT CATTIN
RECOGNIZED THAT HIS VISIT COULD NOT BE OCCASION
FOR NEW INITIATIVES OR SPECIFIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS BUT RATHER
FOR GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS.

2. EMBASSY BELIEVES VISIT TO U.S. BY DONAT CATTIN WOULD BE
MOST USEFUL TO U.S. INTERESTS FOR NUMBER OF REASONS.

FIRST, INsofar AS ENERGY IS CONCERNED DONAT CATTIN'S COMMITMENT TO CONSUMER COOPERATION AND TO US-ITALY COOPERATION HAS NOT ALWAYS BEEN UNWAVERING; HENCE, DISCUSSIONS WITH SECRETARY SCHLESINGER AND OTHER SENIOR USG OFFICIALS WOULD PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR CONVINCING DONAT CATTIN OF BENEFITS TO ITALY OF SUCH FORMS OF COOPERATION. RELATED TO THIS, DONAT CATTIN IS ONE OF THE MANY ITALIAN CRITICS OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S NUCLEAR POWER POLICY, WHICH COULD BE ANOTHER AREA OF USEFUL DISCUSSION.

3. SECONDLY, VISIT WOULD CLEARLY FALL WITH AMBIT OF "VISITS BY CABINET-LEVEL OFFICIALS OF THE TWO GOVERNMENTS" ENVISAGED BY ANDREOTTI AND THE PRESIDENT IN JULY. DONAT CATTIN DOES NOT HAVE PRECISE COUNTERPART IN U.S.; HOWEVER, SINCE SUBJECT OF THIS VISIT WOULD BE ENERGY, SECRETARY SCHLESINGER WOULD BE MOST APPROPRIATE CABINET OFFICER TO RECEIVE HIM. THAT WOULD NOT IMPLY OBLIGATION FOR RETURN VISIT BY SECRETARY SCHLESINGER, ALTHOUGH THAT WOULD, OF COURSE, BE MOST WELCOME.

4. FINALLY, DONAT CATTIN IS ONE OF ITALY'S POLITICAL LEADERS, HE HAS NEVER BEEN TO U.S. AND HE IS NOT PARTICULARLY WELL DISPOSED TOWARD THE U.S. CAREFULLY ARRANGED VISIT, INCLUDING EXPOSURE IN POLITICAL AS WELL AS ECONOMIC CIRCLES, WOULD OFFER AT LEAST POSSIBILITY OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SHIFTING DONAT CATTIN FROM HIS ANTI-US BIAS.

5. BECAUSE OF PROPOSED VISIT, MIGLIUOLO PROPOSES THAT EWG MEETING BE POSTPONED FROM SECOND HALF OF OCTOBER TO MIDDLE OR LATE NOVEMBER. THIS WOULD AVOID ANY POSSIBILITY THAT DONAT CATTIN COULD "ESCALATE" ANY OF UNRESOLVED ISSUES FROM EWG MEETING. IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE, MIGLIUOLO BELIEVES, FOR DONAT CATTIN'S VISIT TO BE OCCASION FOR MINISTERIAL-LEVEL EXHORTATION TO EWG TO EXPEDITE PROGRESS IN THAT BILATERAL FORUM.

6. ACTION REQUESTED : EMBASSY REQUESTS EARLY ADVICE WHETHER WASHINGTON AGENCIES WOULD WELCOME VISIT BY DONAT CATTIN IN FIRST WEEK OF NOVEMBER AND PARTICULARLY WHETHER SECRETARY SCHLESINGER WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO RECEIVE DONAT CATTIN AT THAT TIME. IF REPLY IS AFFIRMATIVE, EMBASSY WILL PROVIDE SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS ON SCHEDULE. MIGLIUOLO WOULD APPRECIATE REPLY BEFORE DONAT CATTIN TRAVELS TO PARIS TO ATTEND IEA MINISTERIAL LEVEL MEETING OCTOBER 5, WHERE HE WILL MEET SECRETARY SCHLESINGER. GARDNER UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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